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The Advantages and Disadvantages of Livestock Shows

DISCUSSION BY THE CENTRAL VETERINARY SOCIETY*

Major BRENNAN DEVINE (C.V.O., Birmingham):

Origin of Shows.—The origin of livestock shows in this country may perhaps be dated back to the uncontrolled and unorganised parades of stallions which took place during the spring and summer months, when the owners took advantage of any and every public gathering, such as race meetings, fairs, markets, hirings, hustings, etc., to exhibit their animals with an eye to business. Such parades were common in this country in the 17th and early part of the 18th centuries.

Later, controlled parades or shows were organised in parishes or larger districts. In modern times the system was extended to other animals of the farm. This led to the holding of shows for still larger areas, *e.g.*, counties. The Bath and West Society, which holds its annual show at various centres in an area covering many counties, was founded in 1777. The Highland Society for Scotland was founded in 1784 and the Smithfield Club in 1798. The English Agricultural Society began in 1838, and became the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1840.

During the past hundred years a large number of county shows have been inaugurated. In some cases counties have combined to hold an annual show, the venue being fixed for each county in turn, as the Three Counties Show of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester. The Royal Counties, the Bath and West, and Peterborough Shows cater for larger areas; and the Highland Show, like the Royal Show, is a national show—the latter is the exhibition ground of the cream of all the other shows.

ADVANTAGES OF LIVESTOCK SHOWS

The main benefit derived from shows is the improvement of livestock and the advancement of rural industry generally, which is a national advantage. It has been one of the principal aims of the show societies to encourage pedigree breeding. The public exhibition of livestock at shows has been, in the main, responsible for the formation, establishment and development of our pure breeds of livestock, and incidentally the development of healthy herds. Most of the animals exhibited at the present-day shows are pure-bred; pedigree animals have a higher pecuniary value than the non-pedigree and greater precautions are taken to keep them free from disease. Exhibitors with high sporting instincts (and there are many such who support the shows) are not always influenced by the monetary aspect of showing livestock. Many owners incur heavy expenses for the gratification of gaining first prizes with their animals. The great desire among livestock breeders to become distinguished as owners of prize stock has proved a valuable buttress for many shows.

It will be admitted by all the initiated, that shows materially contribute to the advance of our knowledge in the breeding of the right type of animal and assist all breeders to attain that ideal.

The prize winning animals at the larger shows are undoubtedly a guide to agriculturists, particularly the rising generation. It assists them to fix in their eyes and minds the right type of animal from which to breed. Pride of ownership encourages many of us to see only perfection in our own animals, and while at home we cannot fault the horse, bull or boar which we possess; when we exhibit in the show ring among the élite of the county or country, we can make comparisons and recognise our mistakes. It may be trying to our pride but it is a valuable education.

This system of competition among livestock owners tends to eliminate not only animals of an undesirable type, but also those affected with disease.

Undoubtedly the increase in the number and size of livestock shows has been, in the main, due to the enhanced value of the prize winner. Shows have now become the recognised sale display ground for the high-class pedigree stock.

Although livestock shows may have a good all-round effect on rural industry, we must admit that while shows have improved the better class of animal in each breed, it takes time for these good results to affect the lower grade herds. The Horse Breeding Act (1916) and the Livestock (Licensing of Bulls) Act (1925) have a great influence in improving the general run of animals in each breed of horses and cattle.

It is recognised that the British Isles are peculiarly suitable for the breeding of livestock; although geographically small, many different breeds of livestock are established and maintained here. The breeds vary with the class of land and the type of farming. The animals bred here have been used for many years as foundation animals for herds in other countries. It is a well-known fact that when animals are exported from this country and used for breeding abroad, the type cannot be maintained in foreign environments unless new sires are periodically drawn from the British Isles, to introduce new blood; and for this reason the export market for British prize pedigree stock should continue and thus should ensure the continuation of our shows.

In recent years there has been a big development of science as applied to agriculture, and particularly to the breeding of stock. The successful stock breeder must pay great attention to the study of heredity, the nutritional value of various foods and the symptoms of disease. Climate, housing, soil, and other environments all play their parts in the production of the ideal animal. Mr. Snadden, M.P., speaking in the House of Commons, stated that, "Before the present war, 67 per cent. of the total (agricultural) output of England and Wales, and 80 per cent. in Scotland, was derived from livestock and livestock products; as a nation we are livestock minded, our country is suited to it, our farmers are highly skilled in this type of farming and livestock will, again in peace-time, be the sheet anchor of British farming."

One-Day Shows.—The one-day shows create local interest and stimulate local exhibitors, particularly the small breeders, to enter their animals for competition. These local shows start a keenness in owners for breeding healthy pedigree animals, encourage them to breed from the best type of animal and improve their technique.

The fat stock shows are valuable in that they encourage livestock owners to produce prime meat at an early age.

The larger shows are the arenas for the established experts in the production of our choicest animals.

All the work which goes towards the production of high-class livestock is futile unless disease is eliminated simultaneously.

DISADVANTAGES OF SHOWS IN CONNECTION WITH OUTBREAKS OF SCHEDULED CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

During the 17th and 18th centuries, considerable numbers of livestock from the continent of Europe were imported to this country. The importation of animals from countries affected by serious plagues resulted in the introduction of animal plagues into Great Britain. Sheep pox was introduced from the continent: this disease was stamped out in 1850 and has not since appeared here.

Cattle plague or rinderpest was introduced on three occasions from the continent, in 1865, 1872 and 1877, and was stamped out on each occasion. This country has been free from the disease since 1877.

In 1873 there were widespread outbreaks of contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle. This disease was finally eradicated in 1898. The restrictions against the importation of continental animals prevented further outbreaks of cattle plague or pleuro-pneumonia. These restrictions were imposed by the Government following the protests by the show societies.

Foot-and-mouth disease cannot entirely be prevented by excluding live animals: owing to the virulence and sudden spreading of this disease, and the heavy financial loss which it causes, its eradication is a national concern. But there are other epizootic diseases which spread imperceptibly and cause heavy losses to the livestock industry. In cattle we have to contend with tuberculosis, contagious abortion, Johne's disease and mastitis; in pigs, swine fever, swine erysipelas; in sheep, sheep scab. From our present-day knowledge of these diseases we know that they can be eradicated.

George Waters, a veterinary surgeon, of Cambridge, in reporting to the Royal Agricultural Society on pleuro-pneumonia, in 1865, pointed out that the holding of livestock shows, markets, fairs, and the movement of cattle through the country, must lead to the spread of the disease.

In 1865 there was an outbreak of rinderpest in England; in that year the Royal Show was held at Plymouth, and after the show the disease spread rapidly; by the autumn 36 English counties, 16

* At the meeting held in the Conway Hall, London, W.C.1, on May 4th, 1944.

Scottish and two Welsh were infected with rinderpest. These outbreaks interfered with the holding of further shows throughout the country, in 1865 and 1866.

The most serious of the scheduled diseases we have had to contend with in the present century is foot-and-mouth disease. In 1912 the Royal Show at Doncaster was held without the presence of cattle, sheep and pigs, owing to foot-and-mouth disease outbreak at Liverpool. During the years 1922, 1923 and 1924, this country suffered heavily through widespread foot-and-mouth disease, and it was not possible to hold many of the agricultural shows.

In view of the possible risk of animals exposed at agricultural shows contracting infection, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a circular letter to all agricultural societies, asking them to adopt the following measures :—

(*a*) A veterinary certificate declaring that the animals and the premises from whence they come are free from any suspicions of foot-and-mouth disease.

(*b*) A veterinary surgeon to examine the animals on arrival at the show ground.

(*c*) Disinfection of the railway wagons and other vehicles before the animals are loaded.

(*d*) Disinfection of railway unloading banks used in connection with the show.

(*e*) Disinfection of vehicles before trucking animals on leaving the show.

These various points indicate how seriously the Ministry view the possibility of the show ground becoming a centre of infection, and the experience at shows at subsequent dates justifies the strict precautions suggested in the circular letter.

One of the greatest disadvantages of these outbreaks is that it interferes with the foreign buyers purchasing pedigree stock at the shows.

Swine Fever.—Swine fever is an epizoötic disease which is continuously cropping up at various centres. Fortunately it seems to be confined in most cases to the commercial pig. Some years outbreaks are widespread. This was especially marked in 1894 and 1895. In 1939 the spread of the disease was so wide in the western counties that it curtailed the number of pig exhibits at the Windsor Show.

Tuberculosis.—Clinical cases of tuberculosis are not normally met with in the show ground, but in the drive to eliminate this disease the greatest care must be taken to prevent tubercle-free animals from coming in contact with affected animals.

Under the Milk Designations Orders the Ministry of Health prohibited the exhibiting of any cattle from licensed, certified or tuberculin tested herds at livestock shows, unless the show authorities provided special and separate accommodation.

The R.A.S.E. authorities had some experience of these conditions at the Windsor Show, 1939. The cattle exhibits were divided into three lots—attested, supervised and ordinary herds. This caused some confusion in finding individual animals in the cattle lines. Possibly, with the increase in the number of certified, tubercle-free herds, show committees may, in the near future, consider the advisability of receiving cattle only from tubercle-free herds.

Tuberculosis is one of the diseases which directly affects the export trade. Countries such as Denmark, Canada and the U.S.A., where tuberculosis in cattle has been reduced to below 2 per cent. (in the case of the U.S.A. tuberculosis in cattle has been reduced from 25 per cent. in 1917 to less than half of 1 per cent. in 1943) will not purchase stock from us for stud purposes without very definite proof that the animals are free from this disease.

In the past, by means of drastic measures, such diseases as pleuropneumonia, rinderpest, glanders, rabies, sheep pox, have been eradicated from this country, and there are logical grounds for the belief that tuberculosis can be eradicated if suitable legislation is implemented.

Livestock shows are not being held during war-time. The export trade has come practically to a standstill. The numerical strength of our herds is reduced to conform with war-time economic requirements. When hostilities have ceased there will be readjustments in our livestock population, and that will be an opportune time to clear out several epizoötic diseases and grade up all herds. All stock owners should be made aware that the elimination of contagious diseases in animals is an important factor in national economy.

Other Disadvantages of Livestock Shows

High-class pedigree stock, as a rule, live a sheltered existence at the home farm. When they are to be publicly exhibited they are suddenly moved from comfortable home quarters and transported long distances by rail or road, often in unfavourable weather. There is in many cases a sudden change of food and water; the regular feeding times are dislocated. During sudden heat waves milking cows, sheep and pigs are often distressed, and some die under such conditions. During the livestock show periods some animals are constantly on the move, from the middle of May to the end of July, and although the attendants take the greatest care of them, many of them are knocked about and subjected to undue exposure and adverse conditions. The attendants in their mistaken enthusiasm in the care of these animals under their charge, often cause the animals discomfort, especially during hot spells, by sheeting them up, front and back, so that the unfortunate animals are left sweltering under canvas without sufficient ventilation. As one would expect, under these conditions, many animals are affected with benign complaints—but, generally speaking, show exhibits are a healthy lot.

As animals may be affected with some disease, benign or otherwise, which may be passed on to healthy animals in the show ground, it is essential, at any rate at all large shows to which animals are brought over long distances from many different parts of the country, to have a veterinary examination of all animals at the stock entrance gate.

The financial aspect of the export trade may induce owners to part with their best females, which is a mistake.

Horses.—For many years it has been customary at our leading shows to examine horses in the breeding classes for signs of hereditary disease. The hereditary diseases looked for are those as laid down in the Horse Breeding Act 1918, *viz.*, cataract, roaring, whistling, ringbone (high and low), sidebone, spavin, navicular disease, shivering, stringhalt, defective genital organs.

In the history of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, published 1840, it is recorded that in the early years of the Royal Show, there had been frequent cases of serious unsoundness among the horse exhibits, but the practice of having a regular veterinary examination by the Society's veterinary inspectors and of disqualifying any that showed hereditary defects, had led to rapid improvement. At the Manchester Show in 1869, the routine veterinary examination of the horse exhibits was discontinued as no longer necessary. After this, veterinary examination was only carried out when the judges requested it. In 1890 at the Royal Show held at Plymouth, the judges were not satisfied with some of the horse exhibits and asked for a general veterinary inspection. In the following year the veterinary examination of horses in the breeding classes was revived and has been carried out at the Royal Show each year since then.

The veterinary examination of horses, which was carried out at past shows, has been responsible for the elimination of many unsound animals being used for breeding.

Cattle.—Cattle exhibits are usually healthy but the sudden changes in an animal's normal quiet existence account for many cases seen in the show ground. The following are examples of a few cases which the veterinary surgeon may be called upon to treat—premature parturition, garget among animals in the milking trials, choking, chills and fever, milk fever, indigestion, diarrhoea.

Although shows have undoubtedly exerted a strong influence in improvement of our stock, we have had experience in the past of the disadvantages of shows in that they have encouraged, through fashion, the wrong type of animal. Unless our judges are expert and know the best type of animal, animals of the wrong type may be placed as first prize winners, and this may lead to the establishment of undesirable types of horses, bulls, or other animals.

For some years the fashion was to have increased feather in the shire horse. Practical experience shows that the horse with a small amount of feather and strong bone is more advantageous than having the coarse-haired type of feather.

Where an animal can prove itself by practical trial, one is more likely to succeed in picking out the right animal than leaving it to the judges at shows. This may be instanced in the case of the thoroughbred racehorse or working sheep dog.

I feel sure if it were left to the judges to select the best greyhound, very often the one selected would be far behind in the trials for the Waterloo Cup; and if it were not for milk recording, we should not be so successful in picking out the right blood in the case of bulls for use with milking herds.

I feel in this paper I must make some reference to the veterinary inspector. Any veterinary inspector who takes on the work at a show must be conscious of a great responsibility, as at each show there is a collection of stock of high value, much of which may be lost if there is an outbreak of contagious disease on the show ground. Whenever stock from various centres are collected at one place, there is always the possibility of that centre being the starting point for the dissemination of some contagious disease. With this in mind a veterinary inspector should take care in the examination of stock, when they are entering the show ground. Any animals showing signs of illness should be isolated, and outside the ground if possible.

During recent years, with the great advance in veterinary science, prophylaxis is steadily assuming greater importance, especially in the case of epizoötic diseases. I feel that if the breed and show societies work in close collaboration with the veterinary profession, it would prove a valuable step in the elimination of the more serious diseases of our livestock.

The breed and show societies should aim to increase the quality of the average animal, rather than obtain a few outstanding representatives of each breed. The development and maintenance of shows have a material and powerful influence in the eradication of animal diseases: hitherto that influence has affected the selected pedigree stock, but it should be developed so as to include all herds. In dealing with this subject I have taken livestock to mean horses, cattle, sheep and pigs.

Mr. Brian Vesey-FitzGerald (Editor, *The Field*)*: I am not, as you all know, a member of your great profession. I have nothing whatever to do with the promotion or organisation of agricultural shows. I have never exhibited at an agricultural show, and I have never judged at one. I cannot, therefore, contribute an expert opinion to this discussion. I know agricultural shows only from the point of view of the spectator, the man who pays his shilling and hopes to get some entertainment in return for it.

You may think that I have already overstressed this word—entertainment. You do not obviously look upon agricultural shows in that light. But I would remind you that in these days of high-pressure advertising we talk of "entertainment value." Agricultural shows have great value as entertainment. They should have something more. They should have both a recreational and an educational value.

They are—at any rate they were in pre-war days—practically the only liaison between the agricultural and urban populations. I do not say that they were a very good one, they were certainly nothing like so good as they should have been, but there was nothing else and they were better than nothing.

But let me first say a few words about the show from the rural point of view. It seems to me that too much stress is laid on pedigree stock at these shows. The idea, I suppose, is that this will prove an incentive to the general grading-up of stock. It has no effect at all on the general level of pedigree stock, and it has had in the past little or no effect on the general level of our second-class stock. You will not find many "commercial" classes at the shows. Plenty of pedigree stuff, groomed and manicured. We go to look at it. But we return to the ordinary up and down stuff. So far from decrying pedigree I am all for it. But I think far too much stress is laid upon it at the shows. In the agricultural show of the future there must be "commercial" classes—and plenty of them.

If you tell me that all livestock should be pedigree—and I have heard it said—well, then I would agree with you. It should. But it isn't: and I think it extremely unlikely that it will be within any reasonable space of time. Since it is not, let us concern ourselves a little more with utility and a little less with decorations. Even in the pedigree classes let us have fewer beasts in straight condition, more as they might be at work on the farm.

In the future, the agricultural show must be much more closely related to the basic needs of the nation, much more concerned with the economic supply of livestock and products to satisfy those needs. Such a relationship will also give the small farmer, at present condemned 99 times out of 100 to the role of spectator, a chance to take an active part.

But to go on to the liaison side of it all. What is needed there? Firstly, and most important I think, fewer shows: many fewer. We have local shows, district shows, county shows, regional shows, and the Royal. We do not need them all. The local show is most valuable: I do not think you could have too many of them. The county show and the district show might well be done away with, in my view, and I am not lacking in local patriotism. We might, for example, have an East Anglian Show rather than a Norfolk Show, a Suffolk Show and an Essex Show. It would lift the burden on transport—and transport is going to be a problem for a long while to come—it would ease the minds of exhibitors, who have too many to choose from at the moment, and it would relieve the strain on stockmen and so forth. We need not discuss the Royal: that is the greatest show in the world and must remain so. But between the Royal and the local shows I think we could do with just a few big shows—the Highland, the Welsh, the West, a Southern, a Midland and a Northern—if you like an East Anglian also: yes, certainly an Eastern. And let them be sited as nearly as possible to big industrial towns. These with the specialists shows—Smithfield, the Dairy and so on, would be ample.

Captain G. C. Reed (Secretary, Hertfordshire N.F.U., Hertfordshire Agricultural Society and Show Secretaries Association) [Summary]: I am going to talk on only half my subject. I am the secretary of a show—and what a secretary, if I started talking about the disadvantages of a show! (Laughter.) I naturally see only the advantages: a secretary sees no disadvantages of showing—he does all in his power to get all possible entries.

There is a tremendous lot in what we have just heard from the Editor of *The Field*: there is some good, hard common sense in that. There is, I agree, just a little too much pedigree about the exhibits. Nevertheless, the thing that is necessary in livestock is quality, not quantity; just now it is the other way round. Rationing will go on in this country long after fighting has ceased and the demand will still be for quantity before quality, and to my mind it will be a long time after this war is over before we shall be able to revert to the ordinary standard of livestock showing. I agree with almost everything Major DeVine has said, but I am at variance with his expressed view on pedigree. The pedigree of some of the exhibits in the showyard leaves a lot to be desired.

Mr. W. Watmough*: Prior to the outbreak of the present war, the exhibiting of pigeons, poultry, rabbits, cats, cavies, mice and cage birds had reached its high point. Not only had we exhibitions with their many thousands of entries, such as were held at the Crystal Palace, at the Horticultural Hall, and at some famous venues in the Provinces, but there took place annually hundreds of shows in various parts of England and Scotland, including not only open shows but events confined to members, held in small village halls. These gatherings were notable not solely for the splendid support they received in the form of entries, but the quality of the exhibits reflected the skill of breeders in producing valuable specimens. After the Armistice, or as soon as conditions permit, there will be a large influx into the ranks of the breeders of birds and animals, and there will very quickly be organised again all those shows which have been suspended for the time being.

The advantages of small livestock exhibitions to the various hobbies are in my opinion as obvious as they are numerous. Without shows we could not maintain the standard of quality which breeders have reached. If there were no shows the Fancies as we know them would virtually cease to exist. It is the exhibitions too, and the publicity which is given to them in the Press, which advertise the quality of British birds and animals to purchasers abroad. Undoubtedly it is this publicity that has led to the vast numbers of British-bred stock which were exported from these shores every year up to the outbreak of war.

So far I have referred only to the advantages of shows and to none of the disadvantages. I search my mind to discover any of these, and I fail in my quest. Truly I know of none.

It may be said by some that there is a danger of shows being the source of an outbreak of epidemic disease. Whilst I do not doubt that individual specimens have on occasions contracted some serious illness when standing in their pens at an exhibition, I think even these cases are few and far between, and that their scarcity is sufficient justification for me to say that the risk is not worthy of being classified as a negation in so far as show promotion is concerned. I do think, however, that just as an exhibitor is disqualified if he shows a faked animal or bird, so should he be punished in some way if he sends to a show an exhibit which is obviously suffering from some illness.

In this connection I have never been opposed to the plan at poultry, pigeon, etc., shows of having present a veterinary surgeon at penning time to eliminate any exhibits which were not in good health; in fact the following of that procedure which is now universally adopted at dog shows. Years ago at the Bradford Ch. Show we initiated this practice and in the livestock journals with which I am associated we advocated that our example should be followed by others. The proposal, however, did not apparently appeal to show promoters. The reason for this may well be the difficulty of the work being adequately done by the veterinary surgeon concerned in the time available.

Although I may now wander somewhat from the subject about which I have been invited to speak, I wish to take this opportunity of urging the veterinary profession as a whole to take a deeper interest in the ailments of small birds and animals.

It is probably surprising that the general health of our studs is so excellent in spite of the fact that up to comparatively modern times, the veterinary profession took practically no interest in our branches of animal and bird culture. If you want evidence of this you only need to visit any of our large exhibitions and see there the magnificent condition in which the exhibits are staged; or go to some of our best managed breeding establishments, and there you will see abundant good health and no signs of anything in the nature of a ravaging disease.

In conclusion, I express the hope that what I have said will at least have done something to awaken still more the growing realisation by your profession of the importance of the small livestock world, of the merits of our shows, and of the need for more attention to be paid by you all to the health of pigeons, rabbits, cage birds, cavies, etc.

(*To be continued*)

* Summary of contribution read in absence.

THE VETERINARY RECORD

August 5th, 1944

SAFE AND CLEAN MILK PRODUCTION

THE Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Bill, 1944, which has now been passed by both Houses, is based on the White Paper "Measures to Improve the Quality of the Nation's Milk Supply."*

Under the new Act the power of making Milk & Dairies Regulations will be exercised jointly by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture, but the Minister of Agriculture, working through the veterinary staff of the Animal Health Division, will be largely responsible for its enforcement. Various existing powers of the local authorities will therefore be taken over by the Ministry and it is this fact, together with the provision that the Minister of Agriculture will have the right to refuse or cancel the registration of dairy farmers if in his opinion "the regulations will not be or are not being complied with," which caused so much opposition in the Lower House. It was generally admitted, however, that there were at present great variations in the enforcement of the Milk and Dairies regulations and the Government maintained that as the Minister of Agriculture was already responsible for the veterinary inspection of herds and for the milk testing and advisory scheme, it would be anomalous if he did not prescribe the conditions under which milk is produced. The Minister will recruit a staff of veterinary surgeons and other inspectors to see that methods of milk production and buildings are satisfactory.

Many believe that there are numerous tasks which non-veterinary inspectors can perform under veterinary supervision, but it is difficult for the profession to agree to accept their help unreservedly whilst unqualified practice remains uncontrolled. One task which they are certainly not fitted to perform is the clinical examination of animals.

Whilst maintaining the principle of unified control Mr. Hudson yielded, and in our view rightly, to the pressure of the House that a person refused registration as a dairy farmer or one having his registration cancelled should be allowed to appeal to a tribunal composed of the regional veterinary inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and two other members, one selected from a panel nominated by the Milk Marketing Board, the other from a panel chosen by the National Farmers' Union. He also eventually agreed to accept as final any majority decision of the tribunal.

The British Medical Association, both in Parliament and in *The British Medical Journal*,† opposed the transfer of powers to the Minister of Agriculture on the grounds that his Ministry was unsuited to the work. "It is no reflection upon the veterinary inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture to say that neither by their numbers nor by their training can they replace in this field of preventive medicine the M.O.H. and his staff. . . ." The facts give no support to this view.

There is ample historical proof of the veterinary surgeon's direct interest in the public health aspects of his work. To quote only a few examples, it can be seen from the columns of *The British Medical Journal*‡ for 1901 that veterinary surgeons, amongst whom Sir John M'Fadyean was outstanding, were among the most vigorous in protesting against Koch's view (advanced at the British Congress on Tuberculosis) that bovine tuberculosis was not communicable to man; they emphasised the dangers to man of various milk-borne animal infections and whilst advocating vigorous measures to control the diseases, realised even then that pasteurisation was necessary to protect the public health. It is due solely to the initiative and vision of the Bureau of Animal Industry, under the direction of a number of very able veterinarians, that bovine tuberculosis has been almost entirely eliminated in the U.S.A. and an important danger to public health removed. Meat inspection is notoriously lax in this country; it is far more efficient in the U.S.A. under Federal control and various other countries where it is also under veterinary control. The quality and safety of all food supplied to the U.S. forces is supervised by veterinary officers of the U.S. Army; they do not allow their troops in this country to consume the normal milk supplied to the British public.

It is quite true that some of the veterinary staff of the more progressive local authorities had done much to improve the quality of the milk supply in their districts, but with very few exceptions these staffs were incorporated in the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1938. The majority of these men are still in the service and are eager to resume the valuable work which to a considerable extent has been neglected since 1938. It would therefore be nearer the truth to say that the local authorities, not the Ministry of Agriculture, lack the staff to carry out the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Bill. It is a matter of common experience that Medical Officers of Health as a whole have little practical grasp of the measures which should be taken to improve the quality or safety of milk on the farms.

The enforcement of regulations is only a small, though admittedly important, part of the whole problem of producing increased quantities of safe, clean milk. Introducing the second reading of the Bill, Mr. Hudson showed a grasp of the whole problem when he emphasised the importance of broad measures to improve the quality of dairy herds. The control of tuberculosis, contagious abortion and mastitis will contribute to the quantity, quality and safety of our milk supply. Some time ago Professor Dalling was able to announce to the Ayrshire Division of the N.V.M.A. that he hoped a standard P.P.D. tuberculin would be introduced requiring only one intradermal injection. This would save 30 per cent. of the work involved in testing cattle and correspondingly increase the number of cattle that could be tested. Experience gained now on a somewhat limited scale would be invaluable after the war when we all hope a far larger number of herds will become tuberculin tested.

Under the Panel Scheme for the Control of Certain Diseases of Dairy Cattle the results obtained by the use of the Ministry's live vaccines against contagious abortion§ are giving general satisfaction and practitioners are dealing with the control of mastitis and certain other conditions all of which have a direct bearing on the quality and quantity of milk. Improved breeding methods, including the use of artificial insemination, will also help to raise the standard of the nation's dairy herds.

We still have not mentioned one subject of over-riding importance on which the success of all these schemes depends; the economic prosperity of agriculture and in particular of milk production. As explained in *The Lancet*‖ three primary conditions are probably essential to satisfactory milk production. "(1) a ten-year plan involving

* Cmd. 6454.
† June 17th, 1944, p. 818.
‡ There are fuller reports in *The Lancet* and *J. comp. Path.*

§ *Vet. Rec.* (1942.) **54**. 175.
‖ December 25th, 1943.

expenditure of £100 million on capital equipment urgently needed ; (2) a large measure of control over the diseases of dairy cattle ; and (3) an adequate supply of good labour for which a six-day week would be necessary. The risks from disease are greater in dairy farming than in any other branch of livestock farming, and the control of tuberculosis and brucellosis, or even the production of clean milk, requires a degree of supervision unnecessary in other branches. Before the war milk production accounted for over a quarter of the total agricultural output, and milk was twice as important as any other single commodity ; but if arable farming and livestock feeding are profitable over an extended period it is possible that fewer and fewer farmers will be interested in milk."

The consuming public must realise that the production of high quality milk, as of any other high quality product, requires increased expenditure of money and effort and that the skill of the farmer and farm worker deserves as large a financial reward as that of the town worker. The fact that the National Farmers' Union supported the Milk and Dairies Bill shows that farmers are fully aware of their responsibilities to the public.

CLINICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Light and Fertility

R. H. SMYTHE, M.R.C.V.S.,
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Since light is usually regarded as being essential to fertility the following may possibly be regarded as the exception which proves the rule :—

Subject.—Red Poll bull, born 1939. A good specimen, in fair bodily condition, very vicious.

Housing.—A wooden shed, partially below ground level ; length 14 feet, width 14 feet, height 10 feet. Flooring : many alternating layers of dung and straw on an earth foundation. Ventilation, if any, accidental. Lighting : *nil*. A window, 18 by 12 inches, near the roof, was permanently blacked out. Inspection and feeding necessitated use of a torch.

Feeding.—Unlimited oaten straw, occasionally a little hay ; no concentrates, roots or green fodder.

Exercise.—Excepting when let out for service, the bull had remained in the dark house since January, 1941, when on account of his temper he had been sentenced to solitary confinement. After service, which was always immediate, he was driven back into his house before he could regain his normal vision.

Breeding Record.—The bull had been used for 24 cows on the premises and occasionally for a neighbour's cows. Out of the 24, 23 calved successfully during 1943. The total number of services to these cows was 26. No record of the results of the outside services was available.

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Glass Eating?

S. F. J. HODGMAN, M.R.C.V.S.
BECKENHAM

Subject.—A three-months-old Greyhound pup.

History.—Believed to have eaten half a glass tumbler which had been left on a bedside table and the base of which was found on the floor.

Treatment.—A good solid meal was given followed by an emetic. In the vomited material were found five pieces of glass, the largest being about the size of a two-shilling piece. Solid meals were continued for the next 48 hours, given three times daily and each followed by a dessertspoonful of medicinal paraffin.

About 24 hours after commencement of treatment eight more pieces of glass were recovered, having been passed in the stools.

Observations.—At no time did the pup show any evidence of pain or abnormality. There was no haemorrhage in either the vomit or stools.

ABSTRACTS

[Human Pulmonary Tuberculosis of Bovine Origin in Great Britain. GRIFFITH, A. STANLEY, and MUNRO, W. T. (1944.) *J. Hyg. Camb.* **43**. 229.]

This report, which covers an extensive enquiry into the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in man, caused by the bovine tubercle bacillus, merits detailed reading by those interested in this subject. It is recorded by two well-known workers, one of whom, W. T. Munro, gathered information from 2,769 cases in Scotland, while the late A. Stanley Griffith did so from 3,592 cases in England. The proportional frequencies of bovine infections were higher in all regions of Scotland than in England; the percentage being highest in the Orkney Islands, with 25·8 per cent. The rural districts of the mainland of the North-East of Scotland followed with 9·1 per cent., while for the rest of the country 5·2 per cent. of cases were found.

In England the highest percentages were recorded in the North and Midlands with 2 per cent., while in the South it was 0·6 per cent.

The anatomical evidence (previous cervical and abdominal glandular, bone and joint affection) in about one-third of the Scottish cases and in a quarter of the English cases, was strongly in favour of the digestive tract as the channel of entry of the bacilli. There are no definite epidemiological data to account for the mode of infection in the remaining cases, but records of some are given which suggest spread from man to man and from cattle to man by inhalation.

S. J. E.

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[Pulmonary Tuberculosis of Bovine Origin. CUTBILL, L. J., and LYNN, A. (1944.) *Brit. med. J.* No. 4338. 283.]

Since 1934, the type of organism in the sputum of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis undergoing treatment in the Cheshire Joint Sanatorium has been determined. The results up to 1943 were as follows: Number examined 2,101—human 2,052, dysgonic human 1, bovine 48 (2·28 per cent.). Epidemiological records of the bovine cases suggest that infection originated from tuberculous milk in 16 cases, while direct contact with cattle was probably responsible for ten, but no definite causative factor could be determined in 19 cases. Further details are given of three families, in each of which two members were found to have pulmonary tuberculosis of bovine origin. The original source of infection in each family was probably from contact with tuberculous cattle and the subsequent infection of the three members was due to human transmission of bacilli of bovine type.

S. J. E.

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[Urinary Calculi in the Dog, with especial reference to Cystine Stones. WHITE, E. G. (1944.) *J. comp. Path.* **54**. 16-25.]

One hundred and three cases of urinary calculi in dogs were studied by macroscopic and qualitative chemical examination of the stones. An outline of the chemical scheme adopted is given. Sixty-five of the calculi were vesical, 31 urethral, one renal, and the remaining six were found in more than one part of the urinary tract. The greater proportion of the stones examined consisted principally of a single chemical compound, and in the remainder a second substance was present although usually in small amount. Vesical calculi were found more commonly in the female; most of them consisted of phosphate with traces of urates in the centre. Of the 31 cases of urethral calculi, all were found in male dogs and 19 were composed mainly of cystine. The high incidence of cystine calculi in males leads to the supposition that cystinuria in dogs is much more common than is usually supposed.

The principal features of the different types of stones are described, and some general suggestions are made for preventing their recurrence after surgical removal, mainly by careful control of the diet. To this end chemical analysis of the different types of calculi encountered is a necessary preliminary.

A. E.

WEEKLY WISDOM

The first thing necessary in this connection is education of the people regarding the nature of the disease (tuberculosis). This is necessary, because in this country, where Parliament never moves except by the force of public opinion, the legislative action required will not be taken unless the people are satisfied of its wisdom and also because even the most drastic sanitary measures enforced by the law are likely to fail if they are not supplemented by the intelligent co-operation of the people.—J. M'FADYEAN (1901): An Address delivered to the British Congress on Tuberculosis.

REVIEW

[A Textbook of the Diseases of the Small Domestic Animals. By Oscar Victor Brumley, D.V.M. [Fourth Edition.] Pp. 422. 37 engravings. Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 7 and 8, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2. Price 27s. 6d. net.]

The fourth edition of this work appears after a period of five years during which great advances have been made, especially in the realm of chemo-therapeutics, and the author claims that the subject matter has been materially altered to include the latest scientific developments. It is the more surprising, therefore, taking only one example, that reference to the sulphonamide group of drugs is confined to the brief remark that "sulfa drugs may also be used to advantage in many cases" in one or two of the diseases discussed, without any detail as to dosage and method of administration, which is surely of the utmost importance.

There is still no mention of endoscopic methods of diagnosis although the use of the fluoroscope is advised in dealing with oesophageal obstructions; in this latter connection those interested in surgery will be surprised that the author has apparently never encountered obstruction of the oesophagus at the point where it passes over the heart. It is unlikely also that clinicians will agree that pyometra in the bitch is most commonly met following parturition.

Infectious diseases are again dismissed in a section of 30 pages, which seems niggardly in comparison with certain other sections devoted to one organ, *e.g.*, the eye (41 pages). Although the author approves of the Laidlaw-Dunkin method of immunisation against canine distemper he apparently remains unconvinced of the value of the specific anti-serum as a therapeutic measure; again no details of method or dosage are given.

Conscientious practitioners are, for obvious reasons, likely to regard with dismay the assertion that in tuberculosis of dogs and cats a diagnosis is not often made during life and further that in early cases treatment is suggested. The author states that both types of leptospirosis (*i.e.*, *canicola* and *icterohaemorrhagicae*) are "quite prevalent" in England and Continental Europe; the reviewer knows of no evidence to confirm this in so far as *L. canicola* is concerned in this country.

This book is likely to prove a disappointment to practitioners since one might have hoped for fewer omissions and controversial statements from so eminent an authority, whilst to students it is unlikely to be of great assistance in the differential diagnosis of diseases of small animals, nor can it be said to be a guide to the relative incidence of the conditions described.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

Membership Examination (July, 1944)

List of Successful Candidates

(*Continued from page 279*)

London

First Year:

•Allen, W. G.
Barber, Harry (B)
Biggers, Miss J. M. (C)
Brown, A. M.
†Capel, L. H.
Chandler, R. L. (C)
Chamberlain, Miss J. F.
Coward, T. G.
Cradock, G. J. G.
Davies, D. M.
Graves, J. A.
Greenough, P. R.
Harries, G. M.
Hill, R. B.
Hughes, Miss Rosemary (B)
Ibbetson, Miss M. G. (B)
Jenkins, David (B)
•Jenkins, J. F.
•Jones, T. D.
Lovegrove, Miss M. R.
Mayes, S. E. V. (C)
Mortimer, K. J.
Orton, R. G. (B)
Packer, D. O.
Palmer, A. C. (C)
Rackham, Miss J. A.
Reakes, D. G. W.
•Rees, D. W.
Rees, J. V.
Scott-White, Miss Anne
Sperber, Miss M. V.
•Stone, Paul
Swarbrick, O.
Tanner, S. C.
Throssell, P. J.
Toovey, J. A.
Young, G. F. P.

† denotes 1st Class Honours.
• denotes 2nd Class Honours.
(C) denotes credit in Chemistry.
(B) denotes credit in Biology.

Second Year:

•Ablett, R. E.
•Barnett, D. N.
Beattie, W. E.
•Betty, R. W.
Boyden, S. V.
Carr, R. J.
•Cross, B. A.
Darcel, Colin (H)
Delfosse, Miss M. L. (H)
Frappell, J. P.
Gray, J. E. (P)
Harris, D. G.
Hobbs, D. O.
Hodgson, A. J. (H)
Hoffe, I. A.
Hull, Miss B. A. (H)
Kingsbury, P. A. (H)
Lewis, D. G.
•Marchant, Miss I. F.
•Martin, I. L.
Pay, T. W. F. (P)
•Penhale, Miss B. M.
Schwabacher, E. N.
Slater, L. F.
•Stower, John
Sumner, G. R.
•Vivian, Miss I. P.
Warren, A. L.
Watson, R. T. (H)
White, Miss C. M.
Williams, Gareth (P)

• denotes 2nd Class Honours.
(P) denotes credit in Physiology, etc.
(H) denotes credit in Histology, etc.

Third Year:

Barnes, E. G. (H)
Bennett, P. M. (H)
Brown, A. R.
Burdett, R. G.
Calderbank, George (A) (H)
Chaplin, Miss H. J.
Cleverley, Miss D. C. (P) (H)
Colley, A. H. J.
Darbishire, H. B. (H)
•Delfosse, Miss M. M.
Dunn, P. S. (P) (H)
Gronow, W. P. (A) (H)
Harries, A. J. A. (H)
Hart, C. B. (H)
Henderson, I. F. (H)
Hirst, B. J. (H)
Hopkin, Wm.
Humphreys, P. N.
Jones, E. W. (P) (A)
Jones, S. M. C.
Kenny, Miss D. M. (H)
Lewis, T. R. B. (A)
Leftwich, R. B. W.
Loftus, A. C.
McCarthy, B. J. A. (H)
•Mills, H. D.
Murray, M. D.
Mutton, C. H.
Ornbo, Miss M. A.
Parsons, W. G.
Pitman, K. J.
Ridley, William
Roberts, H. E.
Stables, J. W. (A) (H)
•Startup, F. G.
Tunney, T. F. (A) (H)
Trawford, F. R.
Troughton, Miss S. E. (H)
Warren, A. G. (P) (H)
Watts, E. T. (A) (H)
White, J. A.
Woodford, M. H. (H)
Young, Michael

• denotes 2nd Class Honours.
(P) denotes credit in Pharmacology.
(A) denotes credit in Anatomy.
(H) denotes credit in Hygiene.

Fourth Year:

Arnold, G. K.
Barber, Miss Elizabeth
Biggers, J. D.
Bligh, P. S.
Briggs, C. A. E.
Brooks, W. E. J.
Chivers, N. C.
Comben, Norman
Cooper, C. T.
Daykin, P. W.
Drake, J. C.
Fawcett, J. F.
Frost, R. C. (Paras)
Furniss, R. H.
Gardner, B. L.
Garner, R. I.
George, I. G.
Gibson, E. A. (Paras)
Gledhill, K. C.
Goulstone, R.
Gover, R. W. M.
•Hartley, W. J.
Ingram, P. L. (Paras)
Kiddle, Peter (Path)
King, A. S.
Lobban, Miss M. C. C. (Path)
Milnes, Miss J. N. (Paras)
Murray, C. B.
Philcox, R. A. (Paras)
Rollinson, D. H. L.
Russell, E. W. (Paras)
Scott, Miss S. M. S.
Self, A. D.
Wilson, Miss J. M.

• denotes 2nd Class Honours.
(Path) denotes credit in Pathology.
(Paras) denotes credit in Parasitology.

Final Year:

Ali, S. M.
Aspinall, K. W.
Beveridge, C. G. L.
Bowditch, E. B.
Bowen, J. W.
Broad, R. C.
Brown, P. L. (S)
•Burdin, M. L.
Chaudhary, S. A.
Dalton, P. J.
Daniel, W. J.
Epps, Miss E. M.
Fawbert, Miss Doreen
Fitzpatrick, R. J.
Fry, F. C.
Grater, G. S.
Hartmann-Smith, C. A.
Knowles, J. R.
Murray, H. P. J.
Noel, E. F. H.
Perrett, D. R.
•Plowright, Walter
Richardson, D. A.
Rowe, J. F. W.
Sambrook, P. M. F.
Schofield, Miss Barbara
Shah, S. M. H.
Smith, E. K.
Sugden, Mrs. B. S.
Taylor, W. M.
Watson, C. B.
Wellington, John
Williams, E. I.
Wilson, J. P.
Wood, J. G. P.
Wright, Mrs. J. G.

• denotes 2nd Class Honours.
(S) denotes credit in Surgery.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

Grass Sickness

Colonel Carver asked the Minister of Agriculture if any cases of grass sickness have been recorded this year among horses; and whether any cure for it is officially regarded as effective.

Mr. Hudson: Cases of grass sickness continue to occur in several districts in Great Britain, but as the disease is not notifiable there are no reliable statistics as to its extent. No effective cure for the disease has yet been discovered, but the whole question is being re-examined with a view to determining the lines on which further research should be undertaken.

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Milk Production

Sir L. Lyle asked the Minister of Agriculture in how many cases the War Agricultural Executive Committees have opposed the establishment or extension of milk production on the ground that the farms in question are better suited to stock raising; and what action his Department took in regard to the various recommendations.

Mr. Hudson: I have no record of the cases to which my hon. Friend refers, and I do not consider that it would be justifiable, in view of the labour involved, to ask War Agricultural Executive Committees to supply this information.

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Milk (Infection)

Captain Sir George Elliston asked the Minister of Health whether he will consider extending the powers of local authorities over milk found to be infected with certain specified diseases by making such powers applicable to all diseases communicable to man by milk.

Mr. Willink: I shall take an opportunity of reconsidering this matter in connection with revision of the Milk and Dairies Regulations. There are, however, practical difficulties in extending the existing powers to all diseases.

Sir G. Elliston: In view of the misleading impression among a large section of the public about the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Bill will my right hon. and learned Friend issue a public warning that clean milk is not necessarily safe milk?

Mr. Willink: That is a different question.

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Poultry Farming

Sir L. Lyle asked the Minister of Agriculture if he will state the chairman and members of the Committee appointed to consider post-war policy for poultry farming; and whether it is proposed to publish its report.

Mr. Hudson: No Committee has been appointed to consider post-war policy for poultry farming; the second part of the Question does not therefore arise.

IMPORTANCE OF VITAMIN A IN DAIRY FEEDS

Vitamin A is one of the most critical needs of dairy cattle in winter. Investigations by the Wisconsin experiment station have revealed that two or three months on poor feed are enough to deplete the vitamin A reserves of dairy cattle to a dangerous point, the vitamin A content of the blood dropping to about 15 micrograms per cubic centimetre.

If the vitamin A level of the blood remains that low for a considerable time, breeding trouble invariably follows. Cattle short of vitamin A eventually lose the power to build vitamin C, the latter being essential for fertility in both cows and bulls.

Trials also show that when cows become depleted in vitamin A reserves, the carotene and vitamin A content of their milk drops sharply. On the average, winter milk produced in Wisconsin contains only about one-half as much of these factors as does summer milk.

Young calves need abundant vitamin A or carotene if they are to avoid such diseases as scours and navel infection. It seems likely that the greatest single reason for widespread losses of calves in the late winter and early spring is no other than this: many calves are fed low-vitamin A milk from cows that have been kept on poor winter feed.—Cir. 337, Univ. of Wisconsin.

NOTES AND NEWS

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

Diary of Events

Aug. 11th.—Meeting of the North of England Division, N.V.M.A., Newcastle-upon-Tyne (King's College), 2.30 p.m.

Aug. 17th.—Meeting of the South-Eastern Division, N.V.M.A., at Maidstone (Royal Star Hotel), 2.30 p.m.

Aug. 17th.—Meeting of Drafting Committee of N.V.M.A. Survey Committee's Report on Pig Diseases, 3 p.m.; Meeting of Drafting Committee of Survey Committee's Report on Calf Husbandry and Calf Diseases, 5 p.m., Station Hotel, York.

Aug. 17th.—Meeting of the Lincolnshire and District Division, N.V.M.A., at Grantham (George Hotel), 2.30 p.m.

Aug. 18th.—Meeting of N.V.M.A. Survey Committee, Station Hotel, York, 10.30 a.m.

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"The Veterinary Record"

The Editorial Committee regrets the continuance of the delay in delivery of copies of *The Veterinary Record*—which inconvenience, as intimated in our issue of July 15th, is due to circumstances beyond the control of the Committee—and the indulgence of our readers is requested until it is possible to resume issue on the normal day. It is hoped that, accordingly, members will deem it unnecessary to enquire concerning the non-receipt of their copies until these are several days overdue thus avoiding the necessity for letters of explanation and the despatch of duplicate copies from the office to be returned on receipt of the original from the printers, who express confidence that prompt despatch can be anticipated shortly.

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City of Edinburgh Appointment

As a result of representations made by the N.V.M.A. the above appointment is now re-advertised at an increased commencing salary. Members who are intending applicants and who would like fuller details of the representations made by the Association should communicate with the General Secretary at 36, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1, before submitting their applications.

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PERSONAL

Appointment.—Manchester Markets Committee, at its meeting held on July 1st, recommended the appointment of Major David E. Orr, M.R.C.V.S., of the City Veterinary Inspectorate, to succeed Mr. W. K. Johnstone, M.R.C.V.S., whose retirement from the post of Chief Veterinary Officer and Meat Inspector to the Corporation was announced in our last issue.

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AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The Minister of Agriculture has decided to establish the Agricultural Improvement Council for England and Wales, first set up in 1941, on a more permanent basis, with an increased membership and widened terms of reference.

To prevent the membership of the Council from becoming static it is proposed that individual appointments shall be for a period of three years, with the possibility of such reappointments for a further period as may be necessary to preserve continuity.

The members now appointed are Sir Donald Fergusson, K.C.B. (Chairman), Mr. Dennis Brown, Mr. T. Dalling, M.A., M.R.C.V.S., Professor Sir Frank Engledow, C.M.G., Mr. J. C. F. Fryer, O.B.E., Mr. A. Holness, Mr. A. R. Hurd, Mr. C. Bryner Jones, C.B., C.B.E., Mr. D. Lewis, Mr. T. Neame, Mr. C. Nevile, Mr. F. Rayne, O.B.E., Dr. E. J. Salisbury, C.B.E., F.R.S., Mr. F. A. Secrett, Mr. J. Turner, Professor J. A. Scott Watson.

Mr. Fryer, who has acted as Secretary, has resigned his position on his appointment as Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, and he is succeeded by Dr. W. K. Slater, F.R.I.C., who has been assisting him as Chief Technical Officer, and Mr. C. F. Whittington has been appointed Assistant Secretary.

The expanded terms of reference of the Council are:—

"To keep under review the progress of research with a view to ensuring that promising results are applied as rapidly as possible to the problems of agriculture and horticulture, and that these and any other new technical methods are incorporated into ordinary commercial practice; to advise from time to time concerning agricultural and horticultural problems which appear to require scientific investigation; and to advise generally as to the lines on which a policy designed to raise the technical standard of agricultural and horticultural production can best be implemented."

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEAN MILK PRODUCTION

"When the Minister of Agriculture, with the acquiescence of the Minister of Health, seeks the transfer to himself of statutory powers relating to the prevention of disease of milk-borne origin it is well to bear in mind the functions and fundamental purposes of the respective Ministries," states the *British Medical Journal* (June 17th, 1944) in a leading article under the above heading, and continues: "In all matters affecting the public health, and for all measures in State medicine authoritatively taken for the prevention of disease among human beings, the Minister of Health has been and must remain responsible. Where primarily the administration of an Act is placed upon local authorities the Minister concerned must see that they exercise their powers and duties or, in their default, that they are superseded by a major local authority, or, in the last issue, by the central authority ultimately responsible. Failure is an affair not merely of local but of central government also. The Minister of Agriculture recognises this, but his answer in the debate on the second reading of the Milk and Dairies Bill on May 19th was a *non sequitur*. He said that the whole problem had radically changed since 1926, when these powers were originally entrusted to the local authorities. The intention stated by Mr. Hudson that he and the Minister of Health will be jointly responsible for making regulations for the control of milk supplies does not necessarily imply a joint responsibility for enforcing them.

"The battle for clean and safe milk—in which the Board of Agriculture was not conspicuous for its zeal—began and bore fruit long before 1926. It is true that progressive dairymen, led by the Institute of Research in Dairying, Reading, and by local agricultural committees, have done much to rationalise and simplify methods and requirements since that time. The problem has changed, but has changed largely because of the comparative success which has attended the efforts of the most zealous local authorities and their officers. Not so long ago (but long before the date given by Mr. Hudson), when the infant death rate was three and four times what it is to-day, medical practitioners and medical officers of health were agreed that for a large part of this mortality infected milk was to blame. In the industry with which the Minister of Agriculture is identified, and to which public attention was then directed, investigation showed intolerable conditions in respect of premises and practice. To a considerable degree, due largely to the activities of local authorities whom it is now sought to supersede, these evils have been mitigated. Milk, it was found, was grossly fouled on the farm, from uncleanly cows, in insanitary cow-sheds, in unsuitable and ill-equipped dairies, by the ignorant practices of cowmen and dairy hands, in transport to the wholesaler, from him to the retailer, and again by the retailer and in the home of the consumer. Sanitary inspectors and health visitors were trained to deal with these evils and to instruct in the hygienic handling of milk whether at the farm or during transit, and the local authorities were armed with statutory powers to enforce compliance. The veterinary inspection service, of which Mr. Hudson is so rightly proud, had its local origin in these efforts, and initially was brought into being by the major health authorities at the suggestion of medical officers of health. The reduction of infection of infants by cows' milk was partly responsible for the decline in infant mortality which, during the last half-century, rewarded the efforts of local authorities and their officers. Tuberculosis, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and other diseases, in addition to the diarrhoea of infants, may in a variety of ways be milk-borne, and have each called for preventive measures and been dealt with under statutory powers for inspection of the milk supply which have served their purpose but are now to be split and redistributed. The health officers, to whom they owe their origin, are to be deprived of these slowly evolved powers over milk production, which, it appears, are to pass into the hands of veterinary officers, who are not primarily concerned with human diseases or with the preventive steps appropriate for the control of most of them. The M.O.H. will still be responsible in theory for the prevention of these diseases, but in practice he will enter the field only after the damage has been done. This disjunction of responsibility is comparable to the larger disorganisation which the proposals for a comprehensive medical service will involve in other spheres of medicine and public health.

"Under an illusion that the Ministry of Agriculture is equipped with the means and the staff for doing what some local authorities, for reasons well understood, have failed to do, most of the M.P.s who spoke in the debate seemed to be willing to hand over to that Ministry responsibilities which it cannot discharge. It is no reflection upon the veterinary inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture to say that neither by their numbers nor by their training can they replace in this field of preventive medicine the M.O.H. and his staff, trained in the technicalities for control of disease in man and constantly present in the localities where the dairy farms are situated. No one more than the Public Health Service can welcome the veterinary inspector's efforts to improve, both in health and in quality, the "stock" which are his care, but there is confusion of thought in the failure to distinguish this province of veterinary medicine from that of preventive medicine concerned to control the conditions, at the source as well as at the periphery, under which milk becomes a dangerous vector of disease to human beings.

"The main reason given for the transfer of the responsibility for inspecting premises, equipment, and methods of milk production is the neglect or incompetence of defaulting authorities and their officers. Because of the failure of some authorities and of local benches of magistrates to do their duty all the machinery of supervision by the greater number of local sanitary authorities is to be scrapped, ostensibly to place it in more efficient hands. The weakness of this argument becomes plain when the inadequacy of the staff possessed by the Ministry of Agriculture to deal with the vast volume of work hitherto performed by local authorities is considered. How do the numbers of veterinary officers at the Ministry compare with the army of sanitary officers throughout the country engaged in an endeavour to secure proper conditions in the production as well as the distribution of clean, wholesome, and safe milk? Are trained veterinary practitioners, diluted by a lay inspectorate, to be engaged in sufficient numbers to replace the sanitary inspectors whom it is proposed to withdraw from this work but who cannot be cut down in numbers because of their other local duties? The Ministry of Agriculture should concentrate on the improvement of stock, the raising of healthy cattle, and the care for dairy produce and milk marketing; the Minister of Health should continue to see to it that whoever undertake inspection they shall conform to his requirements for the protection of the public health. The powers hitherto vested in local health authorities are a legacy from generations of experienced hygienists. If it is established that smaller sanitary authorities are hindered in their work by local influences, the remedy is to enlarge the administrative area for this and other functions of local government."

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LEGAL NOTES

Doping of Greyhounds: Heavy Sentence for Offences at Hove.—At Sussex Assizes recently, Mr. Justice Macnaghten sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, with a fine of £1,000, William Albert Page, of 49, Preston-drove, Brighton, described as a professional backer, who had been committed from Hove. Page was charged on two counts—that between November 1st, 1943, and March 11th, 1944, he conspired with Victor Ernest Chapman, and on or about March 8th with Reginald William Frost, "to cheat and defraud such persons as might wager money upon the results of greyhound racing at Brighton and Hove Stadium, by causing drugs to be administered to certain greyhounds running in the races, thereby impairing the proper running of the greyhounds and fraudulently affecting the results of the races." There were alternative charges, of inciting Chapman so to conspire and of inciting or attempting to incite Frost.

Page pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Eric Neve, K.C., and Mr. Geoffrey Lawrence were Counsel for the prosecution, and Mr. John Maude, K.C., and Mr. Harold Brown for the defence.

During the course of the hearing before the Hove Borough Bench, Mr. H. Scott Dunn, M.R.C.V.S., veterinary surgeon to the Stadium authorities, said he was called to the Albourne Kennels on Friday, November 19th. He was there shown two dogs—Cold Radio and Winning Post—which were due to run the following day. It was at once evident to him that the dogs had been doped. They had been vomited by Mr. Birch, who gave him samples which he labelled, and sent to the county analyst. On November 27th he was at the Stadium, when Junior's Delight, which was also evidently suffering from a dope, was taken off the course. The dog also emitted a capsule, which witness gave to Detective McCall.

Cross-examined, witness said he knew all about these capsules, which had been in use for 40 years. "But not for that purpose," he added.

Dr. Roche Lynch, senior official analyst at the Home Office, said that one lot of the capsules he received contained approximately 80 per cent. of chloretone, and a second lot were pure chloretone. The drug was made up in gelatine.

Mr. J. E. Stevens (for the prosecution): What would be the action of this drug on a dog?

Witness: The action is a sedative one. The animal would go to sleep, and that sleep might last for some hours, depending on the amount given, the food in the stomach, the size and weight of the dog, etc. If the dog were racing while under its influence he would run more slowly. If a strong dose were given some days before a race—say three capsules—the dog might still be physically under its influence, especially where fractions of a second were concerned.

In answer to Mr. Stevens, witness explained that if another analyst failed to find chloretone in a sample it might be owing to the fact

that it was a common veterinary practice to vomit dogs with washing soda, in which the drug was soon dissolved.

Cross-examined, chloretone was a very harmless drug. On men it was commonly used as a remedy for sea-sickness.

Mr. Reginald Frank Wright, of Lewes, county analyst, who examined the samples from Cold Radio and Winning Post, said the results were negative, but the sample from Junior's Delight showed traces of chloretone.

Mr. Reginald Clarkson Birch, of Orchard Avenue, Hove, one of the trainers of the Stadium Company, said that on November 19th he noticed Cold Radio and Winning Post were in a drunken condition, and he called in the veterinary surgeon. With regard to Junior's Delight, due to run on November 27th, it appeared to be all right when it left the kennels, but at the Stadium it was unsteady on its feet, and, before the race, was obviously wrong.

Witness went on to give particulars of the racing so far as it concerned the dogs which had been mentioned in the case.

When reviewing the evidence given at the Assizes, Mr. Justice Macnaghten remarked to the jury, regarding that of Mr. Scott Dunn, "You remember him. He was rather a noticeable witness. He was emphatic and clear in his answers." Page saw Chapman, according to Page in order that he might get information, but according to Chapman, he gave Chapman capsules for a doping purpose. Regarding the drunken condition of Junior's Delight when being led round before one race his Lordship referred to the suggestion that by mistake this dog had twice received doping.

In passing sentence, the Judge said it was disgraceful conduct and a very serious matter. No one knew how much Page had made out of those transactions but on one race alone he had admitted he had made £1,700.

* * * * *

£155 Fine for a Dog.—Charles Harold Stuart Parsons, 43, an ophthalmic optician, of Riverdale Road, Sheffield, who during the last two years has been fined hundreds of pounds for not complying with a magistrate's order to have a dangerous dog destroyed, was before the Sheffield magistrates again on Monday last on a similar summons and was fined £155—£1 for each day since proceedings were last taken.

The fine was ordered to be paid forthwith, and failing that Parsons was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

* * * * *

Contravention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Order.—Mr. J. W. Wilson, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Inspector to the Ministry of Agriculture, told Darwen Bench, on July 20th, that the recent foot-and-mouth disease in the district might have been due to meat cloths brought to the farm coming in contact with pigs. James Henry Eccles, of Turncroft Farm, where the outbreak occurred, was fined 40s. for allowing such cloths to be in contact with pigs without first having been boiled or sterilised. Mr. Wilson said he found the wrappings in the paddock where 15 pigs were infected. Pigs eating similar feeding-stuffs in other parts of the farm were not infected. Defendant said the swill was boiled.

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BULL AND BOAR LICENSING

In the Committee stage of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, an amendment was agreed which has the effect of giving the Government the power to refuse to license bulls or boars which either are non-pedigree or which do not conform to accepted pedigree standards. It will be noted, however, that the new bull and boar licensing schemes thus will not be restricted to pedigree animals.

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MILK TESTING AND QUALITY PAYMENTS

"There is little prospect of farmers being paid for their milk on a keeping quality basis before the end of the war, it was learned in London this week," states *The Farmers' Weekly* in its issue of July 28th, and proceeds: "The authorities, however, are still aiming at bringing this method of payment into operation. The reason for delay in applying quality basis payment is because such a scheme requires testing of all milk on a national basis. Up to date 80 per cent. of milk producers in England and Wales are having their milk subjected to fortnightly tests under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, it is officially estimated. In March some 77 per cent. of producers were officially returned as having the 14-day tests, and the figure has increased since. Largely owing to the scattered nature of their particular class of trade, the percentage of producer-retailers under the scheme is only 22 per cent., but rapid increase is expected as organisation extends. The aim is 100 per cent., 14-day tests for all producers, and as the scheme has only been in official operation since June, 1942, and is not compulsory, results are regarded as being particularly encouraging.

"Testing centres are being extended in all areas, and number 28 area laboratories, with 11 more being set up and 12 more to follow, and 15 headquarters laboratories. These last are usually associated with agricultural colleges, universities and dairy and agricultural institutes. The number of testers at the Ministry of Agriculture's own laboratories under the scheme is 104, but by far the largest numbers of tests are carried out at creamery laboratories where testers number 874. A further 99 testers are being trained to cope with the extension of work."

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FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

At the week-end foot-and-mouth disease was confirmed among pigs at Allerton Bywater, Castleford, Yorks, W.R.

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ROYAL ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

The following announcement is made in the issue of *The London Gazette* dated July 21st, 1944: To be Lts.: Herbert Guy Pembrey (322021), June 8th, 1944; Thomas Hunter Duncan (322339), July 13th, 1944.

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Reference was made at a meeting of Kent Accredited Breeders' Association to the increasing value and importance of closer co-operation between veterinary services and the poultry farmer, and appreciation of the work carried out by the Ministry's veterinary department was voiced.

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The danger that mongrel cattle may be raised on many Welsh farms as a result of the indiscriminate crossing of breeds is receiving the attention of the Agricultural Committee of the Caernarvonshire County Council. Indiscriminate crossing is one of the problems that has followed in the wake of the demand for more milk, and stern warnings on the subject have been given by Professor R. G. White, head of the Department of Agriculture at the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

* * * * *

Robert Turner, aged 36, of Higher Rushcroft Farm, High Crompton, Lancashire, has been fined £300 and ordered to pay £15 15s. costs for slaughtering a cow without a licence, £300 for having a cow in his possession without a licence, £20 for using a slaughter-house without a licence, £20 for slaughtering without inspection by an official of the Crompton Council, and £20 for having unlawfully permitted the carcase of the animal to be removed.

* * * * *

The Scottish Milk Marketing Board announces that it has now received notification of the issue of the one thousandth licence for the production and sale of tuberculin-tested milk by dairy farmers in the County of Ayr. This brings the proportion of dairy farmers in the county now entitled to designate their milk "tuberculin-tested" to 62 per cent.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

The views expressed in letters addressed to the Editor represent the personal views of the writer only and must not be taken as expressing the opinion or having received the approval of the N.V.M.A.

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LESSER-KNOWN LESIONS OF DIAGNOSTIC VALUE IN BOVINE TRYPANOSOMIASIS

Sir,—With reference to Mr. Hornby's letter in your issue of April 1st (just received here), I feel I should reply to his criticisms of the article, published in *The Veterinary Record* of January 1st, 1944, in which I described the tail and tongue lesions observed in cases of chronic bovine trypanosomiasis.

My object in writing the article was to supplement the usual text-book descriptions of "fly-struck" cattle, with the idea that it would be of some interest to students and veterinarians without African experience. I must confess that I, as a student, never heard of the "loss of the brush" or "ulceration of the tongue," but after some field experience in Tanganyika I found that both of these conditions were to be seen frequently in chronic trypanosomiasis.

In describing the lesions I suggested that they might be due to the specific action of the trypanosomes. This was a tentative suggestion only and no direct evidence was offered to support it. My intention was to record the occurrence of the lesions in cases of trypanosomiasis, rather than to establish their precise aetiology.

Mr. Hornby agrees that partial or complete loss of the brush (he makes no comment on the dermatitis in the brush region) does occur commonly in fly-struck cattle. Now, even if the condition is due simply to the poor circulation of anaemic blood, it nevertheless occurs frequently in trypanosomiasis and though it may be a secondary symptom only, it should, in my opinion, be included in the complete clinical picture.

With regard to the ulceration of the tongue, I can assure Mr. Hornby that the lesion which I described has been observed by me in many cases of trypanosomiasis seen under field conditions in the Central and Western provinces of Tanganyika.

I am loath to agree that the lesion is simply a "grass ulcer." It seems unlikely that grass ulcers would originate, consistently, in the mid-line in the transverse groove anterior to the dorsum of the tongue, without other ulcers elsewhere in the buccal cavity. I have often seen the mid-line tongue ulcer in cases of trypanosomiasis, while other non-infected cattle in the same area of country did not show the lesion.

Furthermore, some of the really "cattle-minded" natives regard the tongue lesion as a good guide to the diagnosis of trypanosomiasis, and one would imagine that they living with their cattle as they do, would not fail to distinguish it from a mere traumatic grass ulcer.

Whether or not the ulcer is due to the specific action of the trypanosomes remains to be decided but, similarly to the tail lesion, its frequent presence merits its inclusion in a description of the lesions of the disease.

If the tongue ulcer is not caused directly by trypanosomes, I suggest that it is a secondary lesion resulting from the anaemic condition of the patient. It may be that it is developed from a glossitis analogous to the Hunter's glossitis seen in cases of pernicious anaemia in the human subject.

So, even if the two lesions in question are of a secondary nature only, I consider that, like many other secondary symptoms and lesions in other diseases they are of some value as aids to diagnosis and prognosis, and feel that the article describing them was justified.

I trust that field veterinarians working in the vicinity of tsetse bush, particularly in East Africa, will note the frequency of the tail lesion; and I hope too, that, when examining cases of trypanosomiasis, they will occasionally examine the animal's tongue for the presence of the ulcer in front of the dorsum.

Yours faithfully,

c/o Livestock Control F. G. Waddington.
P.O. Box No. 282, Nairobi, Kenya.
July 9th, 1944.

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VETERINARY EDUCATION: THE LOVEDAY REPORT

Sir,—The two schools of thought in the profession should not be incapable of reconciliation over the second report of the Loveday Committee, provided that discussions are carried on without heat and without the introduction of personalities.

It has been inferred that only a minority of those who are entitled to vote have done so, on two recent occasions when the question of our one-portal system of entry has been the main issue at stake. This is true, but it is the rule, rather than the exception in any such case, and as a result one is bound to accept the views of the majority of the minority who do vote.

On these grounds, I conclude that it is clear that whilst it is regarded as highly desirable that the existing integrity of this system is in no way impaired, there is a keen desire that the offer of university collaboration and financial assistance shall not be too lightly spurned, until every possible avenue of a solution has been explored and exhausted.

My conception of the one-portal system is the power to examine. In considering it, it is immaterial where the candidate is trained, any more than when a horse is presented to enquire from whose livery stables it emanates. The material point is that the power to examine enables one to pass or reject the subject presented—whether man or beast—and to record the result.

But if one is merely asked to register the result of an examination carried out by someone else, then the one-portal system is at an end. The licence to practise will be given in return for the prescribed fee, in exactly the same way as a dog, gun or wireless licence.

If the universities concerned are prepared to grant this right in the all-important concluding stages of the curriculum, then I submit that we not only retain our existing system of entry but we should strengthen it, and in the field of research look forward to a better veterinary profession. Whilst I regard research as a definite post-graduate subject I am conscious of the need to encourage and to provide for a brilliant or interested student facilities in this direction. There is a very serious lack of experienced veterinary teachers and examiners in physiology, and we can only point to one outstanding worker in this country in our profession—the late Major-General Sir Frederick Smith.

If this right is refused, then a degree that seeks to confer the right to practise cannot be accepted without the sacrifice of the one-portal.

I believe that the universities would agree to this right if approached in the proper spirit.

In my opinion it would be as suicidal to accept the report as it stands as it would be equally madness to reject it, out of hand, on one issue only, without any attempt at negotiation.

I do not think for one moment that we would run any risk whatsoever if we stated that whilst insisting on the maintenance of the one-portal system, we accepted the recommendations in general, in principle, *provided that certain differences in detail can be mutually adjusted by negotiations between the Council of the R.C.V.S. and the bodies concerned.*

This would cover everything, and enable us to have deleted certain sections which are not agreeable, and to submit counter proposals where indicated.

Yours faithfully,

"Rothiemurchus," J. F. D. Tutt.
St. Cross, Winchester.
July 22nd, 1944.

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Sir—At the request of the Government the Loveday Committee has now issued its second report on veterinary education according to its interpretation of the terms of reference and it is now before the profession for consideration, but no one is justified in assuming that it is the last and final word on the subject. Nor has anyone the right to think or suggest that the British Government has fallen to the level of the Nazi's regime which considers a treaty or charter as binding just so long as suits its convenience and then looks on it as a scrap of paper.

Everyone allows that having regard to their finances and opportunities the R.C.V.S. have used the powers given to them by their Charters to their fullest extent in raising the standard and efficiency of the profession until the M.R.C.V.S. diploma is looked on as the soundest veterinary degree in the world.

For that reason, now that the Loveday Committee has given us some idea of the money that might be forthcoming it would seem to be wise for the profession to produce its own report on veterinary education so that when the time comes for negotiations to start the Loveday Committee will not be the only body that has a foundation on which to start the discussions.

If there are two reports it is highly probable that with the Englishman's love of compromise, a satisfactory settlement can be arrived at, but if the profession is too indifferent to produce its own report it will be difficult to find a basis on which to start negotiations.

Yours faithfully,

"Crabwood," Oxted, Surrey. Arnold Spicer.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 TO 1937, AND AGRICULTURE ACT, 1937 (PART IV).

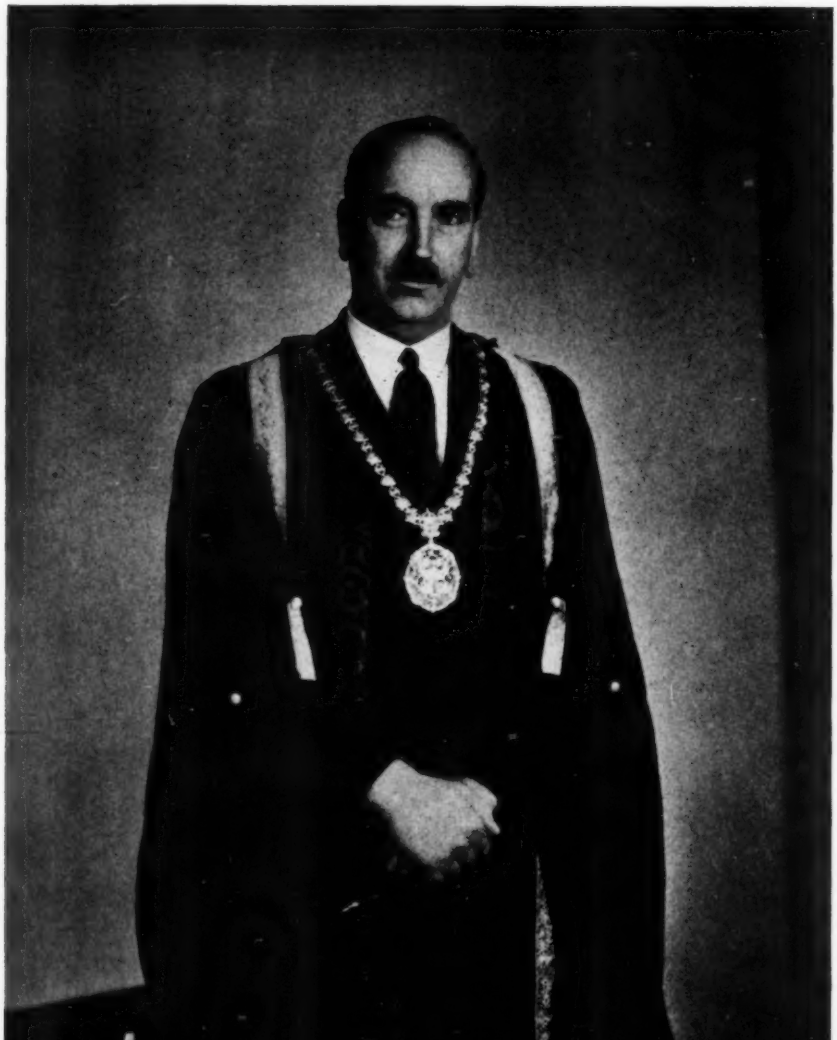
Summary of Returns of Confirmed Outbreaks of Scheduled (Notifiable) Diseases

Period	Anthrax	Foot-and-mouth	Parasitic Mange*	Sheep Scab	Swine Fever
July 1st to 15th, 1944 ...	2	—	—	—	53
Corresponding period in—					
1943 ...	7	—	—	1	23
1942 ...	16	29	—	1	15
1941 ...	8	2	—	3	29
Total Jan. 1st to July 15, 1944	113	27	6	61	471
Corresponding period in—					
1943 ...	171	10	6	101	281
1942 ...	188	74	26	118	247
1941 ...	282	257	10	137	824

NOTE.—The figures for the current year are approximate only.
* Excluding outbreaks in Army Horses.

Tuberculosis Order of 1938

The number of bovine animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938 during the period April 1st to June 30th 1944 was 3,484.



[*Elliott & Fry*

THOS. M. MITCHELL, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

President, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 1944-45